

# Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano

## Report to the 38th District

Spring, 2004

### Napolitano Hosts Federal Grants Townhall

Facing harsh budget cuts, community organizations, city agencies, and schools from the area participated in Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano's Grants Townhall in Pomona on February 26. More than 160 attended the five hour presentations at The Village at Indian Hill. The Congresswoman stated that federal grants "will be the saving grace for many organizations" in light of all the proposed federal, state, county and local budget cuts.

The Environmental Protection Agency, and Departments of Education, Housing and Urban Development, Homeland Security, Health and Human Services, Transportation, Justice, Labor and Commerce gave information on how agencies determine which grant requests to fund. Participants had a chance to ask questions and attend breakout sessions for more detailed information.



Napolitano urges town hall participants to seek federal grants

Local entities were encouraged to collaborate and submit joint funding proposals, as they are often more likely to receive

### Inspiring Student Civic Involvement



Napolitano encourages students to become more involved in civic activities

Stressing the importance of civic involvement at a young age, Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano visited a civics class and a probation class at Montebello High School in February.

Among issues discussed with students was the President's proposed education funding cuts and program eliminations in his FY2005 budget request, sent to Congress last February. Napolitano

opposes these actions which will adversely affect education and student achievement.

#### President's Proposed Funding Changes

##### To Be Eliminated:

- Dropout prevention
- Even Start: early childhood education, adult literacy, and parenting education
- School counseling services

##### Cutbacks:

- After school programs (50% reduction)
- Perkins Student Loans (\$100 million)
- Reading programs (\$8 million)
- Vocational education (\$316 million)

• Education technology (\$40 million)  
Frozen (no additional funds provided):

- Bilingual education
- Pell Grants

Eighteen-year-olds were urged to register to vote and stay informed on issues that affect them. This way, they gain power and have an impact on policies that will influence their futures. Students were also encouraged to learn how government functions and to work with locally elected leaders to help secure federal funding for community youth centers, after school programs, libraries and other projects important to them.

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To register to vote, visit:

#### **Congresswoman Napolitano's Senior Scam Stopper Event** May 25, 9:30 AM

Palomeres Park Senior Center  
499 E. Arrow Highway, Pomona  
Federal Trade Commission will tell you how to protect yourself.

*\*For more information, contact Amelia Wang, 562-801-2134.*

# Working for More Vet Services

A supporter of more services and benefits for veterans, Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano met with representatives from the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) and Veterans In Community Service (VICS). Of major concern is the President's FY2005 budget request, which underfunds veterans services, especially health care, by \$257 million.

Local veteran and PVA volunteer Ken Snow addressed several critical issues, including proposed mandatory funding for Veterans Affairs (VA) health care to ensure that all eligible veterans have access to high-quality health services. Napolitano has since become a cosponsor of H.R. 2318, the "Assured



VICS staff discuss services with Napolitano

Visiting VICS in Los Nietos, the Congresswoman met with its President and CEO Tony Gallegos to discuss veterans' services. VICS has a VA representative and is a certified On-the-Job Training (OJT) facility. Its move to a newer, larger facility in Santa Fe Springs will allow for expanded services.

VICS staff were pleased that the language from Napolitano's H.R. 3442, which instructs the VA to provide job training and supportive employment services to veterans with mental illness, was incorporated into the omnibus veteran's health bill, signed into law in 2003. The VA is currently working to implement this new law. For information on how to access these services once they become available, constituents should contact their local VA medical center, which can be found at:

[http://www1.va.gov/health\\_benefits/](http://www1.va.gov/health_benefits/) or by calling toll free: 1-877-222-8387.

Congresswoman Napolitano, Co-Chair of the Congressional Mental Health Caucus, joined by Los Angeles homeless advocate, Federal Circuit Judge Harry Pregerson, toured the Salvation Army Homeless Shelter in Bell.

The shelter arranges housing and provides support services, including drug rehab and computer job-training in its large renovated facilities.

Veterans with mental illness make up much of the homeless population. The Congressional Mental Health Caucus is seeking to expand mental health services for veterans, including urging the VA to create more centers and clinics within the 38<sup>th</sup> District



Napolitano discusses education funding with La Puente parents

## Keeping Parents Informed

A strong proponent of increased parental participation in education, Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano helped kick-off Parent Workshops at the First Annual La Puente Family Fiesta Day. La Puente High School Principal Guillermo Chavez and staff discussed the role of parents in helping children succeed, federal education resources and proposed education cuts.

Principals, volunteers and parents from Sparks Elementary and Middle Schools and La Puente High School asked numerous questions regarding education cutbacks. Topics covered in the workshops, presented in English and Spanish, included "What is No Child Left Behind," "How to Help My Child Get Good Grades," and "How Do I Get My Child Into the University."

Principal Chavez commended Napolitano for addressing the largely bilingual audience in both English and Spanish on proposed reductions in the federal college financial assistance programs, e.g., Pell grants and Perkins loans. Also discussed was the need to prepare and save for college now, especially since federal financial aid programs

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# Noticias Sobre la Inmigración

Para los interesados en conseguir respuestas particulares o ayuda con sus formularios, les beneficiará atender el Primer Taller de Inmigración y Ciudadanía de esta oficina. Este evento está programado para el sábado, 26 de junio, 2004 en el gimnasio del parque del condado de Bassett. Para más información, favor de llamar a la Srta. Perla Hernández, (562) 801-2134.

La oficina local de la Congresista Napolitano provee ayuda en casos pendientes con los Servicios de Ciudadanía e Inmigración de los Estados Unidos (United States Citizenship and Immigration Services – USCIS) del nuevo Departamento de Seguridad Domestica (Homeland Security) – anteriormente conocido como los Servicios de Inmigración y Naturalización o “INS.”

Debido a las leyes éticas del congreso, la oficina no asiste en llenar las solicitudes para ciudadanía, permisos de trabajo, etc. Solamente hacemos encuestas con las agencias federales apropiadas sobre casos, y tratamos de resolver quejas contra

esas agencias. La oficina por ley federal no puede abogar por ninguna persona.

Nota: Es muy importante que no falten a las citas con oficiales de inmigración, ni que se les pasen fechas para entregar formularios o documentos que les han requerido. La oficina también asiste en casos con el Departamento de Estado cuando hay dificultades en obtener visas.

La Congresista opone la propuesta de reforma de inmigración que reveló el Presidente Bush porque no incluye una avenida para conseguir ciudadanía para esos trabajadores, ni facilita la reunificación de familia. Ella cree que cada persona merece la oportunidad de mantener su familia unida y obtener el sueño americano. Ella también opone propuestas republicanas que obligan a que los hospitales y agencias policiales reporten a inmigrantes indocumentados quienes solicitan cuidado médico

. Los inmigrantes aún tienen muchas barreras que sobresalir, y necesitan reducir esas barreras, no agregar otras. Además, esto sería otro mandato sin fondos para

## Small Businesses Note Concerns

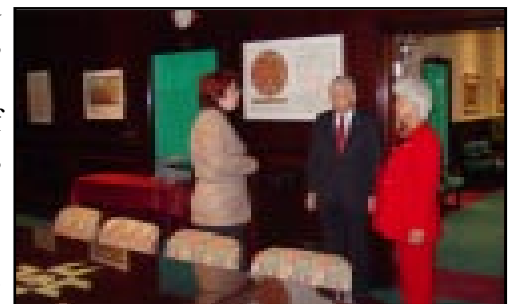
Continuing small business site visits, Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano visited Santa Fe Springs manufacturers Precision Tube Bending and Pioneer America to learn firsthand their concerns and to provide information on access to federal contracts, manufacturing assistance and homeland security.

As a member of the Congressional Manufacturing Caucus, chaired by Rep. Donald Manzullo (R-IL) she focused on two manufacturing issues: expanding federal contracting opportunities for small manufacturers and Small Business Administration (SBA) loan programs. Unfortunately, no federal agency meets its statutory small business contracting goals, costing small businesses millions of dollars in lost opportunities. Ending the practice of contract bundling and allowing small manufacturers to compete for federal contracts could help stem the decline in manufacturing and further job losses in California.

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Another site visited was CHARO, a Community Development Corporation which provides small business seminars and individual business counseling. CHARO staff discussed concerns over the President's proposed SBA's budget cuts,

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**Napolitano discusses Charo's services**



**Napolitano discusses the local impact of federal budget cuts and the deficit**

## Deficit Hits Local Economy, Programs

Earlier in the year, Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano met with over 50 parents, students, teachers and school board members at Bassett High School to discuss the federal budget deficit and its impact on local schools. Assemblyman Ed Chavez, Bassett USD Superintendent Robert Nero and Bassett High School Principal Cartha Tennille also participated.

She also discussed the deficit's impact on the economy, as well as specific budget cuts affecting homeland security and small business: “The federal budget deficit is over \$500 billion and is the largest in our nation's history. Funding for Iraq is draining the resources we need to meet local funding needs, and the deficit is hampering our businesses from creating new jobs.”

Of great concern are local first responders — municipalities, firefighters, police, healthcare providers — who have not received the funds they need to protect our communities from terrorism. Congressional funding formulas also disadvantage California, sending more federal dollars to states that are less populated and have fewer potential terrorist targets. In



## Empowering Local Women

At a visit to Santa Fe Springs-based Phoenix House, a facility for incarcerated women and their children, Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano urged the women to make the best choices for themselves and their families as they re-enter the community and to seek assistance from federally-funded local services:

- *First Five LA* offers services to pregnant women and children under 5, including healthcare, nutritional assistance, parenting advice, family literacy and school readiness. Contact: 1-888-347-7855 or [www.first5.org](http://www.first5.org).
- *WIC* (Women, Infants and Children Program) offers free food, nutritional assistance, help finding healthcare, and breastfeeding information. To find your closest WIC branch, call the California WIC branch at 1-888-942-9675 or visit [www.wicworks.ca.gov](http://www.wicworks.ca.gov).
- *SELACO WIB* (Southeast Los Angeles County Workforce Investment Board) provides education, job training, job search assistance, transportation, substance abuse counseling and child care. Contact (800) 481-6555 or [www.selaco.com](http://www.selaco.com).
- *Parents Anonymous*, a support group founded by parents, holds free weekly meetings throughout Los Angeles County



**Napolitano, with elected officials John Chang and Rudy Bermudez respond to small business tax concerns**

## Tax Information for Small Businesses

Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano joined State Board of Equalization Member John Chiang, and 37<sup>th</sup> District Assemblyman Rudy Bermudez at a Norwalk Small Business Tax Seminar. Over 70 businesses and individuals attended to receive information on basic sales and use tax; labor laws and regulations; and starting/financing a small business.

Businesses were encouraged to take advantage of the Small Business Development Centers (SBDC's) – the one-stop shops that help businesses get started and provide technical assistance. Two SBDC's serving the 38<sup>th</sup> District:

363 S. Park Ave. Suite 101 Pomona, CA 91766 90040 Phone: 909-629-2247	5675 E. Telegraph Road Commerce, California 90040 Phone: 323-887-9627
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including: elimination of funding for the 7(a) loan program (to be financed entirely by new borrower fees); \$119 million overall SBA cuts; and total elimination by the Bush Administration of 22 programs that assist small businesses, including Microloans

and Business Information Centers. Congresswoman Napolitano and other Small Business Committee Democrats will continue to fight these cuts and urge adequate funding for small business assistance.

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Pioneer America, producer of chemicals for water treatment, discussed with the Congresswoman its model security plan developed to protect their site. The company noted that the The Department of Homeland Security was impressed with its model on a recent visit.

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For more information on small

## Congresswoman Grace F.Napolitano

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